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To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Opposed to the Settlement

I am opposed to the settlement offered by the DOJ in the Microsoft case.

I am a data analyst by profession and a computer programmer by hobby. I would like to start my own software company, but I feel that it would be foolish to do so because of one fundamental cause: software business that is successful today will be Microsoft's business tomorrow.

The findings of fact in the Microsoft case are not in dispute. Microsoft is a monopoly and they use their monopoly power illegally to stifle competition and invade new markets. Why should I risk innovation in the face of such a foe?

The proposed settlement will do nothing to redress Microsoft's past crimes, and the restriction on future behavior are so minor as to allow Microsoft to select the majority of its own regulating body. Furthermore, Microsoft will be allowed to re-frame its business practices in the name of "security" and be basically immune from the conditions of the settlement.

A real penalty would redress the past illegal behavior and prevent such behavior in the future. The current settlement does neither.

As an aside, who settles a trial in the penalty phase? Is that a little like forfeiting when you've already won?

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